

THE**KEYNOTER**

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS CONSERVATORS



American Political Items Collectors
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**ALTON B. PARKER: THE FORGOTTEN
 MAN OF THE GOLDEN AGE
 HENRY G. DAVIS - UNCLE SAM'S
 WHITE ELEPHANT**

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KEYNOTER

THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS CONSERVATORS



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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

It has been a great honor and privilege these many years to have been able to work with the fantastic team that creates this wonderful publication. Each issue of *The Keynoter* takes countless volunteer hours of work to write, edit, design and complete. The staff has done this because they care about the organization's membership and strive to produce a product that all of us can be very proud of. Each issue has its own challenges but our staff is responsive to your wishes and interests within the organization and hobby in all its glory.

Michael Kelly, Bob Fratkin, Germane Broussard, David Quintin, Michael Tews, Mark Evans, Harvey Goldberg, Brian Krapf, Al Salter and all the countless writers and other contributors behind the scenes, I thank you for all you have contributed to the betterment of the organization through *The Keynoter*.

Our hobby is different than most in that we celebrate the losers as well as the winners in the political ring. Only in the APIC do we spend so much time and effort researching events and campaigns that were lost causes. Perhaps the APIC is the home for lost causes. This issue of *The Keynoter* is no exception.

This issue honors a man who was reluctantly chosen to do battle with Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 – Alton Brooks Parker. Alton Parker was a person who believed that his calling was not at the head of an organization or political office. His calling was that of the law and the bench, often turning down more high profile jobs such as being a candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and United States Senator from New York State. He was not afraid to mix it up as he served as campaign manager for David B. Hill when he ran for governor in 1884 as well as county chairman of the Democratic Party. Parker said he preferred the simpler life of an upstate farmer; however, he spent many years in Albany serving on the bench as well as a lawyer in New York City. It is not to say he was not partisan but rather saw politics as a way to better all the citizens of the area he lived in as well as across New York State.

Parker's campaign for President could well be described as a "fiasco". From his first speech upon accepting the nomination to his decision to avoid making comments on international events following the speech, to running a front porch campaign from a location where few could visit him – his candidacy was doomed. His defeat was expected given the popularity of the sitting President and the juggernaut of a campaign he was willing to accept. Parker and his campaign lost by some 2 million votes but yet carried the solid Democratic South.

Parker was considered so obscure to take on Roosevelt, not one biography was written about or for him, the only time this has happened in the political world. Parker returned to the law and politics to serve as manager of John A. Dix's successful campaign for New York Governor in 1910 as well as prosecution counsel for the impeachment of New York Governor William Sulzer in 1913.

So today we honor Alton B. Parker, who outside the organization is recognized not by his many contributions to the law and the bench but rather as an obscure Jeopardy question.

Enjoy this issue and the many more to come! Again it has been an honor to serve as your President but I am certainly the first to tell you I received the help and support of so many people that it truly was a joy to serve you.

All the best,



Chris Hearn, President



A Rare and Important Parker Button



For years this button was only known from a fuzzy photocopy. Nonetheless it appeared in every article about the TR Equality buttons as it reflected an opposing view. We finally have a clear copy to share from Robert Fratkin's collection.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

When I began collecting political Americana back in the mid-Sixties, I remember being fascinated with the losers. It was one of those tiny black and white lithos with a great photo of John Nance Garner and the message "Garner for President"



that first caught my eye. Being a high school student, I wasn't up to speed on the politics of the 1930's but there was something about old Cactus Jack that made me want to learn more.

As hard as a hopeful had it, it must have been even more difficult to bear the loss when you were the nominee of your party. Both Gerald Ford and Hubert Humphrey came achingly close to winning. Others, like Mike Dukakis, saw large leads melt away as November approached.

Alton B. Parker never came that close. The Democratic nominee in an era when the Republicans won 14 out of 18 elections and facing one of the most popular presidents ever to occupy the White House, Parker is truly the Forgotten Man of presidential politics.

But members of the APIC are not the kind of people to forget our past and those campaigners who made sacrifices and suited up for battles they would not win.

The rich range of material available for Parker and the era in which he was active makes it natural for collectors and conservators to make certain that we still remember who he – and so many others – were and the role they played in our Republic's history.

Michael Kelly
Editor

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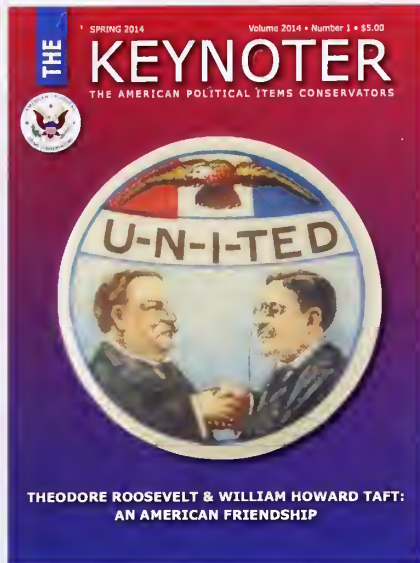
FRONT COVER-- A handsome tin tray from a Washington state newspaper. Note that Parker is wearing judicial robes.

SUBMISSIONS-- *This is your publication. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, illustrations and stories. The Key-noter is delighted to share pictures of interesting political Americana with its readers. When submitting an illustration, send it as an .eps, .jpg or .pdf file to mkelly@mcc.edu. Illustrations should be in color and submitted in digital format with at least 300 dpi resolution (preferably higher). Files must be created at 100% of actual size or larger (smaller risks losing clarity). Digital electronic images should be saved to a minimum of 300 dpi as TIF, GIF, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.*

If you don't have access to a scanner or high-resolution digital camera, you can take your items to graphic service bureaus, such as Kinko's, and have them scanned in the specification mentioned above. You can then send the file by e-mail, on a CD or on a zip disk. If sending by zip disk, please supply return address.

ILLUSTRATIONS-- The editor wishes to thank the following for providing illustrations for this issue: Al Anderson, Benny Brandvold, Germaine Broussard, Robert Clifford, Ken Florey, Robert Fratkin, Ted Hake, Drew Hecht, Heritage Auctions, Scott Jasnoch and John Vargo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Many kudos for your fine article in the Spring 2014 Keynoter. You wrote that the TR pin shown on page 8 [see photo] was from 1904. As a California collector I am familiar with the many moves of the Blunt Company (which made the pin). In 1904 they were at 537 Clay Street. They were at 880 Mission Street from 1912 to 1918. The backpage on this pin lists the address as 880 Mission, making this a 1912 campaign item. Keep up the good work. [EDITOR'S NOTE: See the related story about backpapers in this issue.]

Steve Ominsky
(APIC #5698)



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1904 Presidential & Vice Presidential Candidates



Republican Party

Theodore Roosevelt (NY) & Charles W. Fairbanks (IN)
7,630,457 votes (56.42%) – 336 Electoral Votes



Democratic Party

Alton B. Parker (NY) & Henry G. Davis (WV)
5,083,880 votes (37.59%) – 140 Electoral Votes



Socialist Party

Eugene V. Debs (IN) & Benjamin Hanford (NY)
402,810 votes (2.98%) – 0 Electoral Votes



Prohibition Party

Silas C. Swallow (PA) & George W. Carroll (TX)
259,102 votes (1.92%) – 0 Electoral Votes



Populist Party

Thomas E. Watson (GA) & Thomas Tibbles (NB)
114,070 votes (0.84%) – 0 Electoral Votes



Socialist Labor Party

Charles Hunter Corregan (NY) &
William Wesley Cox (IL)
33,454 votes (0.25%) – 0 Electoral Votes

Alton B. Parker: The Forgotten Man of the Golden Age

By Michael Kelly



For button collectors, the Golden Age of buttons must surely be those early 20th century elections - most particularly 1904, 1908 and 1912 - in which the technical quality of printing and reproduction combined with an artistic movement ("Art Nouveau") to create an almost limitless array of beautiful political artwork in the medium of small celluloid buttons.

Add to the mix some wonderfully colorful political personalities – Theodore Roosevelt, William Jennings Bryan, William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson – and it is hard to find another period that produced as many desirable items.

The forgotten man of this period is the 1904 Democratic Presidential Nominee; Alton B. Parker of New York. In his history of presidential hopefuls, *They Also Ran*, Irving Stone described Parker as "the forgotten man among the forgotten men who Also Ran."

"Of all the unsuccessful candidates for the presidency of the United States no longer living," Stone pointed out, "he alone has had no biography written about him."

Parker is remembered as the man who lost to TR, but for little else. That is not wholly accidental for Parker's political strength was that very quality of not taking positions and leaving his views as ambiguous as possible. TR biographer Edmund Morris describes Parker as "gray enough to defeat the new science of autochrome photography. Drably decent, colorlessly correct at fifty-two, Parker dressed by habit in a gray cutaway coat and gray trousers. He lived in a gray house overlooking the gray waters of the Hudson, and was author of many gray legal opinions, so carefully worded that neither plaintiffs nor defendants knew what he really felt on any given issue. Even the heart of Alton B. Parker was a gray area."

After two tumultuous and failing presidential campaigns with the radical, vocal and colorful Bryan, Democrats were looking for someone to present a more respectable face of their party in 1904. Parker supported the Gold Standard against Bryan's Free Silver but yet, as a loyal party man, had backed Bryan as his party's nominee. As a serving judge for decades, Parker had been able to avoid committing himself on most political issues, leaving him "available" in the term of the era. A candidate who was "available" was one who had managed to avoiding making too many enemies or taking too many controversial positions to make himself unacceptable to important factions in his party or the nation. Alton B. Parker may have been one of the most "available" politicians of his era. New York Republican Elihu Root said that Parker "has never opened his mouth on any national question".



Having both been deeply involved in New York State politics, Theodore Roosevelt and Parker knew each other well and Roosevelt genuinely liked the man who would be his opponent for the Presidency. TR respected Parker as a capable, honest public servant and even acknowledged the strength of Parker's lack of clear positions. "The neutral-tinted individual," TR wrote a friend, "is very apt to win against the man of pronounced views and active life."

Alton Brooks Parker was born May 14, 1852 in Cortland, New York. His family's roots went back before the Revolutionary War and a great-grandfather had fought along side General Washington. His father was a not-overly successful farmer known throughout the county as a lover of books and learning. As the only redhead in his county school, young Alton had to prove himself a good fighter to overcome teasing and, when still a small boy, accompanied his father to a local courthouse to watch the proceedings, deciding on the spot that he wanted to be a lawyer.

Alton Parker grew up to be a strong, healthy and pleasant man. He attained the law education he desired, married a judge's daughter and set up his law practice in Ulster County, New York. When his father-in-law was defeated for re-election, the 24-year-old Parker insisted that he run again, promising to manage his campaign. Young Parker threw himself into his father-in-law's race and personally met large numbers of local voters. Parker's father-in-law was returned to the bench by the voters and Alton B. Parker found himself a popular local figure.

In 1877, the local post of Surrogate fell open in Ulster County. The Democrats nominated Parker, who won easily. He was so successful in office that Republicans didn't put up an opponent when he faced re-election. Parker quickly became the Democratic party leader in Ulster County (although he left the various party posts to others) and was soon delivering his formerly-Republican county to the Democrats. His work drew the attention of Democratic Governor Samuel Tilden.

Parker went to the 1880 Democratic National Convention to help nominate Winfield Hancock and in 1884 returned to the national convention to help New York Governor Grover Cleveland win the presidential nomination and White House. He declined the offer of a Washington appointment from President Cleveland but was back in the game the next year as the campaign manager for David Hill's winning race for Governor of New York.

Governor Hill returned the favor by appointing his 33-year-old campaign manager to a seat on the New York Supreme Court. Despite the obvious political nature of the appointment, Parker was so widely respected that there was little criticism of Hill's appointing such a young man to such a high post. Judge Parker proved an effective jurist and when he ran to keep his seat in 1886, Republicans again chose not to put up a candidate against him.

In 1888 Parker moved up to the New York Court of Appeals (despite its name, the Supreme Court is not the highest state court in New York) and in 1897 was elected Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals by a landslide. Democratic leaders were so impressed that they offered Judge Parker their nomination for governor. Parker declined. Soon after he was offered the party's nomination for U.S. Senator but he again declined, preferring the calm work of the bench to the rough and tumble of electoral politics in the Empire State.

If Parker had accepted the gubernatorial nomination, it is possible he would have faced Theodore Roosevelt in the 1898 gubernatorial election, six years before they met in the 1904 presidential race.

As 1904 approached with a popular Republican incumbent, Democrats struggled to find a candidate to challenge TR. After losing twice, they knew they wanted a change from Bryan but party battles had left them with few "available" candidates. Conservative Gold Democrats hoped to draft former President Cleveland but he was not interested in a fourth presidential campaign. Populist Silver Democrats would have loved to nominate Bryan again but understood that after two losses they'd have to try something else.

Having been safely on the bench during the party warfare of the preceding decade, a strong record of appealing to independents and Republican voters, and a landslide victory in New York under his belt, Parker seemed to be the answer to his party's dilemma. But Parker, the gray man, was not about to make it easy for his party.

"I am a judge of the Court of Appeals," he announced, "I shall neither embarrass the court by my opinions nor use the dignity of the court to give weight to them. I shall do nothing and say nothing to advance my candidacy. If I should receive the nomination, I shall then resign from the Bench and state my views as a private citizen." Parker was going to stay silent.



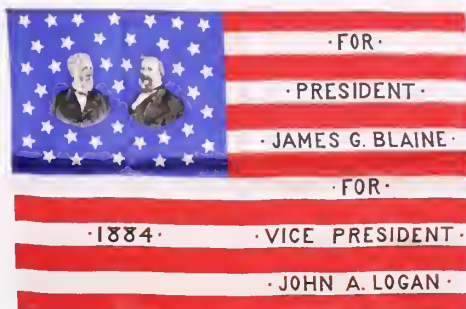
COWAN'S AUCTIONS



Henry Clay Chromolithograph on Canvas,
by E.C. Middleton, Cincinnati, Ohio
To be offered July 2014; \$400 - \$600



Theodore Roosevelt Campaign Bandanna
To be offered July 2014; \$300 - \$500



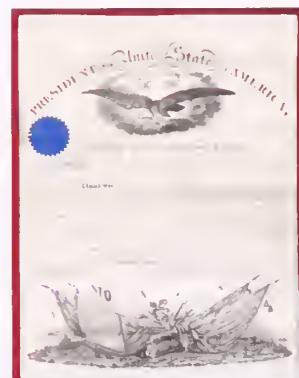
Blaine-Logan, 1884 Presidential Jugate Campaign Flag Banner
Sold June 2014 for \$2,280



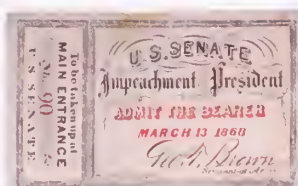
Scarce William Henry Harrison Campaign Flag
Banner; Sold June 2014 for \$7,638



Rare CDV of the Escaped Slave
"Gordon" Displaying His Scars;
Sold June 2014 for \$13,200



Abraham Lincoln Commission
Signed as President, for Thomas
H. Ruger, Brigadier General, April,
1863; Sold June 2014 for \$8,225



Andrew Johnson Impeachment Ticket
To be offered July 2014; \$400 - \$600



King Hostick - George Studio
Photographs of Abraham Lincoln (1 of 3);
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The public was not happy. Even his allies criticized his position, but Parker stood firm.

Nonetheless, Parker remained the one “available” option for the Gold Democrats. Meanwhile the party’s left wing found its champion in Congressman William Randolph Hearst, but despite his wealth and newspaper empire, Hearst was not going to succeed, so William Jennings Bryan tried a sly strategy to outmaneuver Parker.

Bryan fought a tremendous fight at the convention to defeat a platform plank pledging the Democrats to supporting the gold standard. Having run against gold twice, Bryan was determined that his party would still support silver or at least remain silent. In the end, the exhausted convention agreed to leave the gold/silver plank out of the platform and nominated Parker. Bryan triumphantly believed that the public would still see his party as the silver party and leave the gold standard to the Republicans.

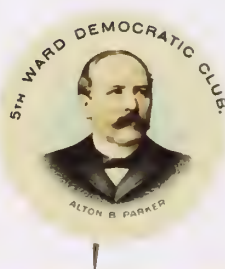
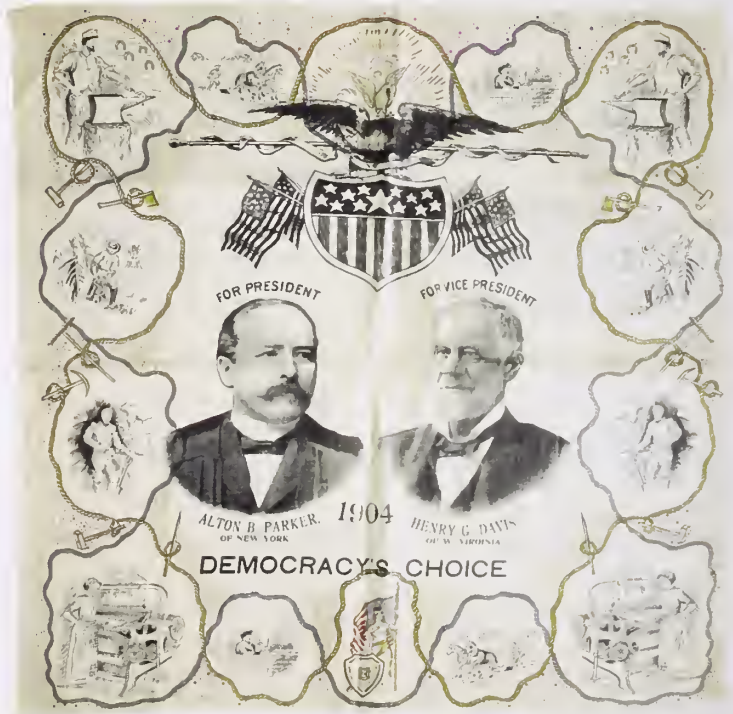
Parker, however, was not without strategies of his own.

While he had remained silent before the convention, as soon as his nomination was achieved Parker sent a public telegram to the convention: “I regard the gold standard as firmly and irrevocably established and shall act accordingly if the action of the convention today shall be ratified by the people. As the platform is silent on the subject, my view should be made known to the convention, and if it is proved to be unsatisfactory to the majority, I request you to decline the nomination for me at once, so that another may be nominated before adjournment.”

In Washington, President Roosevelt saw Parker’s telegram as a brilliant stroke. “It was a bold and skillful move,” he wrote Henry Cabot Lodge. Parker, he felt, had “become a very formidable candidate and opponent.”

The Democratic convention wearily accepted Parker’s position, and nominated the very wealthy 80-year-old businessman Henry G. Davis as his running mate in hopes that Davis would bankroll the campaign, then went home.

It would have been hard for any Democrat to challenge Theodore Roosevelt in 1904. His vigorous administration and lively persona had caught the public imagination. The economy was booming, something which always helps the incumbent, and TR’s politics were definitely far more progressive than expected from a Republican. In fact, some Wall Street tycoons were supporting Parker as the better option for advocates of *laissez-faire* economics.



It was a strange campaign. Many conservative Republicans supported Parker while progressive Democrats found much to admire in Roosevelt. Democrats had expected Parker to run a vigorous race but he chose instead to run a front porch campaign along the lines of President McKinley. Unfortunately for the Democrats, while McKinley's home in Canton had been centrally located on the rail lines, allowing the GOP to organize a steady flow of delegations to his doorstep, Parker lived on a farm outside a small town that was harder to reach. Few visitors made the journey and little inspiration or news was created.

His nomination acceptance speech, normally a major moment, proved to be uninteresting and the Democratic campaign went downhill from there. Unfortunately for the party, the Democrats couldn't look to their vice-presidential nominee to carry the battle. Unlike the vigorous campaign TR had made in 1900 as McKinley's running mate, the elderly Henry G. Davis was in no condition to take to the hustings and kept his fortune in his own pocket as well.

In the last weeks of the battle, Parker finally emerged to make a handful of speeches but to little impact. Parker had to focus his attacks on TR's campaign manager, George Cortelyou, rather than the President himself, but TR personally answered with a fierce response that seemed to sweep Parker away. It is a mystery why Parker, who was such an effective campaign manager for others, seemed unable to run a strong campaign for himself when nominated for President.

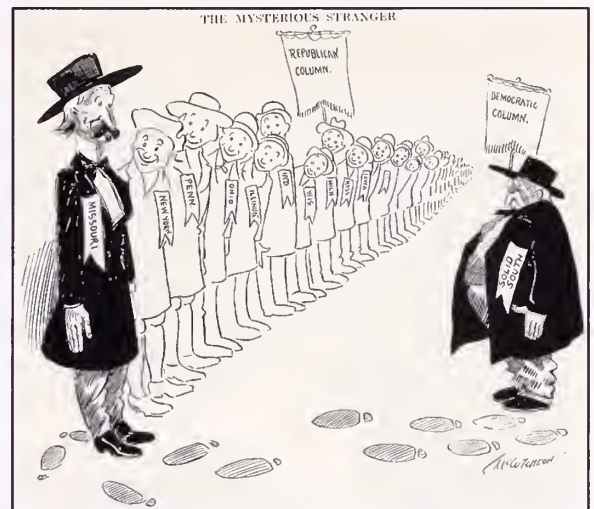
Election Day proved an historic landslide for Roosevelt. The Republicans added 400,000 more votes to their 1900 landslide while the Democrats lost 1.5 million. The total was 7,630,557 (56.42%) for TR and 5,083,880 (37.59%) for Parker with Socialist Eugene V. Debs taking 402,810 (2.98%), Prohibitionist Silas Swallow 259,103 (1.92%) and Populist Tom Watson 114,062 (0.84%). In the Electoral College, Roosevelt won every state outside the "Solid South" including normally Democratic Missouri for a margin of 336 to 140, giving him more Electoral College votes than any of his predecessors.

Poor Parker had lost everything. He had resigned his beloved and comfortable judicial post and had no political career left. Forced to return to private practice after decades on the bench, his dream of a seat on the Supreme Court would never be realized.

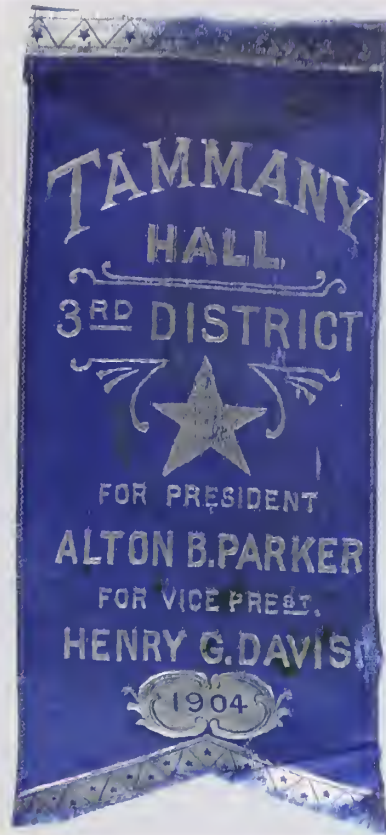
Parker became President of the American Bar Association in 1906 and ran John Dix's successful campaign for Governor of New York in 1910. He delivered the keynote address at the 1912 Democratic National Convention and in 1913 was counsel for the managers of the trial leading to the impeachment of Dix's successor as governor, William Sulzer.

On May 10, 1926, Alton B. Parker died from a heart attack while riding in his car through New York City's Central Park.

Parker was a worthy man and would likely have performed well as President. To say he suffered by comparison with TR is to understate the case. TR went on to be one of the nation's greatest and most popular presidents. Alton B. Parker went on to become the Forgotten Man of the Golden Age.









Henry G. Davis of West Virginia

By Michael Kelly



Henry Gassaway Davis was a self-made millionaire back when a million dollars was serious money. Born in Maryland on November 16, 1823, his ancestors went back to the early days of the Maryland colony. His first twenty years were spent working on a farm but when he came of age he went to work for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as a brakeman and conductor. He was later put in charge of a railroad terminal in West Virginia, where he soon branched out into coal mining and banking.

Growing wealthy, he turned his attention to politics and began a swift rise in his adopted home. In 1865, he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates and four years later advanced to the State Senate. Two years later, he was elected to the U.S. Senate from West Virginia, serving two terms. He stepped down from the Senate in 1883 and devoted himself to his highly profitable business interests.

Over two decades later, Davis found himself a focus of the hope of delegates to the 1904 Democratic National Convention. Having nominated Alton B. Parker for President, the delegates hoped that the wealthy West Virginian would dip into his deep pockets to finance the presidential campaign. As an incentive, they nominated him for Vice President. At age 80, Davis was (and remains) the oldest person to be nominated for President or Vice President on a major party ticket.

Despite his nomination, Henry G. Davis was no fool when it came to money and declined to spend his hard-earned fortune on the improbable promise of the Vice Presidency. His age prevented him from making much of a campaign and the Parker-Davis ticket went down to defeat in a landslide.

The same year that Davis was Parker's running mate, his brother, Thomas Beall Davis, was elected as a U.S. Congressman from West Virginia but he voluntarily stepped down after serving a single term. Politics appeared to be a family interest as Henry Davis's son-in-law, Stephen Benton Elkins, served as Secretary of War in the Benjamin Harrison administration from late 1891 to early 1893. Elkins went on to be elected as a Republican to the U.S. Senate from West Virginia in 1895. Elkins was re-elected twice, serving as Senator until his death in Washington, DC in 1911.

Despite sharing a last name, the Democratic Party and careers in West Virginia politics, Henry G. Davis was not related to the 1924 presidential nominee John W. Davis.

During the last years of Henry Davis' life, he donated land to build the Davis and Elkins College (named for himself and his son-in-law) in Elkins, West Virginia. On March 11, 1916, Henry G. Davis died in Washington, DC at the age of 92, having outlived his son-in-law, and was buried in Elkins, West Virginia.



What is TR Doing on a Parker Button?

By Michael Kelly

Collectors often take pleasure in finding sets of political buttons on which the same design appears with pictures of different -- often competing -- candidates on them. Some designs are even repeated in different campaign years after year.

Then there are matching buttons that appear in different versions with the same theme, such as the "Eclipse" buttons showing either McKinley eclipsing Bryan or Bryan eclipsing McKinley depending on the loyalties of the wearer. Fine examples of the latter from 1904 are the different TR and Parker "Scales" buttons, one showing Parker outweighing TR and the other reversed.

Then there are those buttons that picture both candidates together such as the pictured button put out by the *Philadelphia Evening Telegraph* boosting a campaign game to be found in its pages.

But one button from 1904 goes beyond those buttons to break new ground. There is a handsome Parker button bearing the usual photo of the Democratic nominee. On either side of his picture are patriotic images of the Spanish-American War. On the right are battleships (per Admiral Dewey or Admiral Sampson) and on the left are Rough Riders charging up San Juan Hill.

It is likely that these patriotic war scenes were simply a standard background decoration in the aftermath of America's successful victory over Spain (rather like Lady Liberty or the American flag) and probably appeared in other versions with numerous other images in the foreground, political or otherwise.

The button manufacturer, perhaps in a hurry to quickly get buttons out to sell to loyal Democrats, forgot to note that the Rough Riders being celebrated on the button were commanded by Parker's opponent, Theodore Roosevelt.





Uncle Sam's White Elephant: 'Its' Game - 'Its' Finish

By Steve Baxley

Where did the term "white elephant" originate? As the story goes, it had something to do with the great showman, P.T. Barnum. Barnum, always looking for a new source of entertainment to bring in the crowds, was earnestly seeking a new attraction when his prize attraction, Jumbo the Elephant, was killed by a train.

Barnum needed a replacement and not just any replacement would do. Barnum decided that an albino elephant would do the trick and bring the masses back with their money. Barnum found a "white" elephant, but the problem was that most people who had paid good money to see the animal thought its color was closer to yellow than to white. Thus, the term "white elephant" represents something with a value exaggerated beyond its true worth.

In 1904, the Democratic campaign for Alton B. Parker used this symbol to graphically portray the "Grand Old Pirate's" protectionist policies as shackled to the good of the trusts and not the country. The backpaper of this button reminds the wearer that the "White" Elephant GOP Recapitulation was a healthy \$41 million deficit. The GOP claimed their policies were prosperous for the country, but from the Democratic perspective the Republican Party had suckered the voter; protectionism had helped the trusts and put the people in debt. But that game was over. Parker and Davis would expose the "white elephant" score a safety, preventing the Republicans from even getting onto the field of play, much less achieving their goal, the Presidency. This is truly one of the most graphic thematic campaign buttons in history.



This handsome 1904 button is 1 1/2" but is shown larger so the detail can be better seen.



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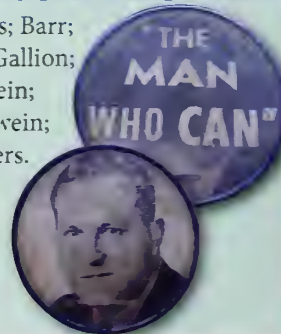
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P.T. Barnum: Showman and Politician

By Paul Rozycki

Critics of American politics and politicians often compare our elections to a 'three ring circus' or a 'carnival' by way of suggesting that politics is nothing more than an entertaining and distracting side show.

Yet there has long been a connection between politics and show business. The list of successful politicians who also made a career in show business is substantial: Ronald Reagan, George Murphy, Sonny Bono, Jerry Springer, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Al Franken and many others.

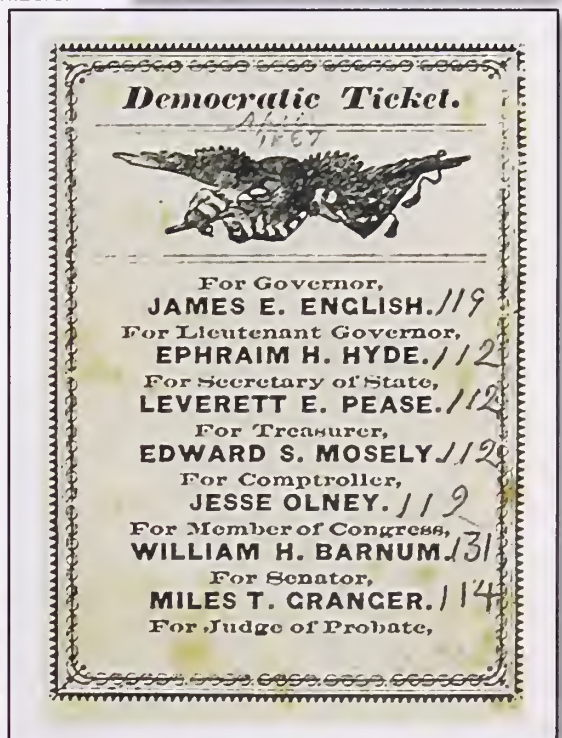
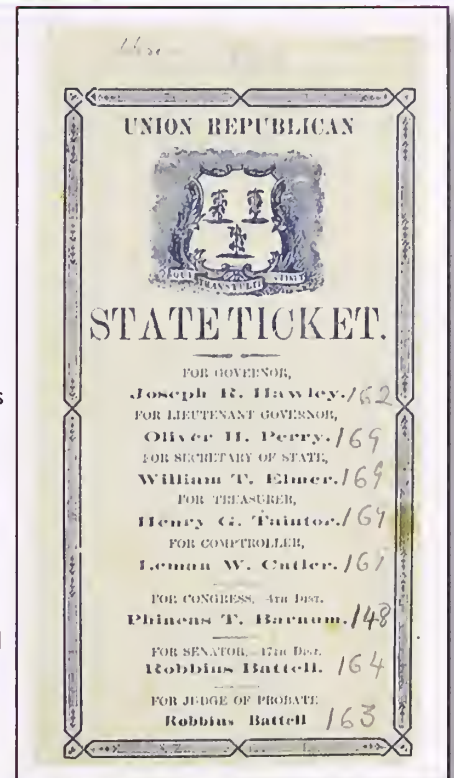
Little known is the role one of the earliest American showmen played in politics. Phineas Taylor Barnum was both the master showman of his day and an active political candidate. Barnum, founder of what would become the Ringling Brothers & Barnum Bailey Circus, promoter of singer Jenny Lind, the "Feejee Mermaid," the Siamese Twins "Chang and Eng" and "General Tom Thumb" among many other attractions, may have been the first American show business millionaire. As a successful entrepreneur, publisher and entertainer, it is perhaps not surprising that he was pulled into the political arena.

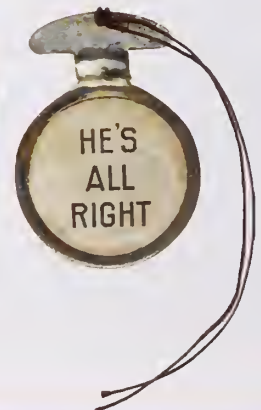
Though he promoted minstrel shows in the 1840s and 50s, his changing views on slavery led him to leave the Democratic Party and join the newly formed Republican Party, where he emerged as a vocal anti-slavery proponent. When the Democrats tried to nominate him for governor of Connecticut, he refused their offer, rejecting their views on slavery. He was an ardent advocate for emancipation and civil rights in the years before and during the Civil War. Some historians believe the fire that destroyed Barnum's American Museum in N.Y. in 1865 was started by southern sympathizers.

In 1865, he was elected to the Connecticut legislature on the Republican ticket and served two terms. In 1867, he ran for the U.S. House and lost to his third cousin, industrialist William Henry Barnum, who was the longest serving chair of the Democratic National Committee. W.H. Barnum later was elected U.S. Senator from Connecticut. In 1875, P.T. Barnum was elected mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut and was a reformer who improved the water service, encouraged the use of gaslights on the streets and actively enforced prostitution and liquor laws.

Like Yogi Berra, Barnum is often quoted for things he never said. Though widely attributed to him, he did not say, "There's a sucker born every minute."

A lesser known, but accurate quote, reveals more about Barnum and his views toward slavery and human rights. In the 1860s, debate over the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery, he said, "A human soul is not to be trifled with. It may inhabit the body of a Chinaman, a Turk, an Arab or a Hotentot—it is still an immortal spirit."





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Confessions of a "Backpaper" Junkie: a Study of Western Button Manufacturers

By Benny Brandvold, M.D.

When I began collecting political items in the late Sixties we lived in Montana, which was insulated from the organized political collecting world. Without a senior mentor, my only source of information on collecting was initially Dick Bristow's *Illustrated Political Button Book* and later Tom French's periodical, *The Political Collector*. I recall one reference proclaiming in essence that it was only the content on the front of the pinback that mattered, not the paper in the back. At the time this didn't sit well with me and, due to my contrary disposition, has since sparked a separate outlet and passion in my collecting—acquiring buttons manufactured by obscure manufacturers, with a special interest in those located “out west.”

Initially, I used backpapers as a bellwether, for a button's authenticity, a security blanket against the dreaded reproduction. Unfortunately, this isn't such a shield anymore, with the repins sporting later backpapers by Torch and Franz and St. Louis Button Company turning up more frequently on the market of late. Understanding the subtle differences in backpapers over time is quite useful in sorting out items of questionable authenticity. Ted Hake gives an excellent presentation of manufacturers and different backpapers used through the years by some of the major companies in the suffix of his book, *Collectible Pin-Back Buttons 1896-1986*. I strongly recommend everyone obtain a copy as it is an invaluable reference. I hope this article will provide an adjunct to his work and look more closely at button makers operating in the first half of the twentieth century or earlier in the western United States.

Growing up in Montana, most of the celluloids I encountered were either “Pin-lock” filled back buttons or carried a Whitehead and Hoag backpaper. Whitehead & Hoag must have had a huge market share in the state; in fact, they had an office in Butte through much of the 1920's. As my collecting interests grew, I found myself drawn to the pins that rarely blessed the pages of mail order auctions rather than the beautiful classics which seemed to appear more frequently. It seemed these pins were more often produced by less known manufacturers; therefore fueling my interest in collecting items from these “regional” shops. Don't get me wrong, I still like the classics, but I get a special joy from obtaining the often less graphic but less plentiful pins made by obscure companies. In this article I will present the manufacturers I could document from the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Colorado and Montana. I could not find any manufacturers in Wyoming, Arizona, Idaho or New Mexico in operation and producing campaign buttons prior to 1950.

California

We will start with California, the largest western state and home to a number of button manufacturers responsible for many great pinbacks. The most prolific and well known California button maker was the Walter N. Brunt Company of San Francisco. The earliest reference I could find of the company's operation is a patent application to produce “badges” in 1894. The company relocated on many occasions and the date of a pin's production can be inferred by the address cited on the pin's backpaper. The first address on celluloids is 535 Clay St. which changed to 535-537 Clay St. in 1901 and then again in 1904, when they moved to 102-104 2nd St. The great earthquake and fire destroyed that building in 1906 and they reopened at a “temporary” location at 391 Jesse St. in 1907 and relocated to 860 Mission St in 1909. They remained there until 1910 when their address changed to 878-880 Mission St, though I have only seen backpapers with the 880 address. The style of the backpaper changed from simple printing (see photo of 860 backpaper) to the modern design (see 880 and 7th St photos) in approximately 1916. From 1919 to 1921 they used a 766 Mission address. 111 7th St. was then their business address through the remainder of their production.

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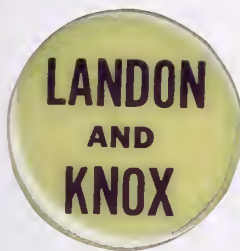
The latest pinbacks I am aware of at this address are from the 1940 election. Sadly, this research proved that one of my early acquisitions, a "unique" photo pin of McKinley, must have been a commemorative item because it carries an 860 Mission backpaper which would indicate a production date after 1909. The gold TR rebus pin carries an 880 Mission paper which would suggest a 1911 or later manufacture despite a younger photo. An enigma in attribution is the Harding "West Coast Tour" pin which is frequently ascribed to Brunt. The vast majority I have seen (including a sizable hoard) are usually devoid of backpaper. The ones I have seen with Brunt papers carry the 880 Mission address suggesting they continued to use papers after relocating until the supply was exhausted. I have also seen one of these pins with a Donaldson backpaper. They were a San Francisco company which produced some labor pins in the early 1920's but I have not seen any other presidentials with their label. JC Irvine operated at 751 Market and made a graphic 1 1/4" celluloid and a strange brass relief pinback with a collet, both for the 1904 Roosevelt campaign. I suspect they subsequently became Irvine and Jachens which produced a number of presidential pins for Wilson and at least one for Debs. San Francisco is also represented by the Pasquale Company which contributed the Roosevelt/Fairbanks California Bear jugate. Star Engraving on Minnesota St. produced pins from the mid-30's to the 1960's but the only presidential I am familiar with is a 7/8" Stevenson marked on the curl.



Los Angeles is well represented by button producers. Hoegge made some graphic pins to include "Teddy's Terrors." Their pins seem to be limited to the early 1900's extending into the teens; they made multiple variations of the black on yellow "Votes for Women" pins. LA Badge and Manufacturing Company made pins for Taft's visit in 1911 but also made the 7/8" Roosevelt/Johnson California jugate. LA Rubber Stamp Co. began in the 1880's making badges for law enforcement organizations. In the early 1920's they changed their name to LA Stamp and Stat Co. They went out of business in 1964 and their inventory was sold at auction. They have a negative internet profile because their inventory was refashioned into law enforcement badges and sold as originals. Law enforcement badge collectors are very suspect of items produced by this company. In addition to police badges, they did produce celluloid pinbacks; I have examples of pins for Wilson and Coolidge.



2-1/4" actual size



Given the company changed its name after his death, I suspected the Wilson pin was a prop for the 1944 movie about his life; I subsequently watched the movie online and confirmed my suspicion. Western Badge, not to be confused with the St. Paul maker with a very similar name, produced a number of presidential pins. The earliest I could find is the Davis classic pictured in the article but examples are available at least through the 1940 election.



Oregon

I could identify only two companies manufacturing campaign pins in Oregon in the first half of the century. Pacific Regalia in Portland produced items starting with the 1896 election and I have found no items documented after 1904. Despite their short longevity, they were quite prolific and had some very distinctive designs, not the least of which is, in my opinion, the best button made in the west—the “Uncle Sam McKinley/Roosevelt Bicycle jugate.” This company’s backpapers are found on a number of pins known to be produced by widely distributed makers, suggesting they distributed already manufactured pins or produced pins with acquired artwork. There are examples of all the 7/8” 1896 Whitehead and Hoag jugates with Pacific Regalia papers and the ubiquitous sepia TR/Fairbanks pictured here which usually comes with a filled back. Portland is also home to the Irwin-Hodson Company whose distinctive red on white backpapers first appeared chronologically on a Taft pin and can be found on items through the 1960 election. The company is still in business but produces predominantly business signage. Their most prized pin is likely the 6” Hughes name pin—all northwest collectors dream of finding one in an antique mall or flea market and still speak of the one found out on the coast.



Washington

Washington was home to a plethora of companies that produced pinbacks; most were obscure and had very few if any presidential items associated with them. The exception is the Grays Harbor Stamp Works in Aberdeen which opened its doors in 1916 but began making pinbacks in 1937. The last presidential item I could unambiguously attribute to G.H. Stamp is a 1963 anti-Kennedy Goldwater pin. They were also the likely source of the FDR pair with the “Designed and Distributed by Edw F Murray Seattle” backpaper as they have an Aberdeen union bug. Their most sought after items are likely the Truman “Washington Club” and the “Washington for Dewey”, which though very non-descript is exceedingly rare (an example was recently available in a USAmericana Auction). Seattle was home to a number of button manufacturers, but examples of their work are limited. F.M. Webb & Co produced pins for Teddy Roosevelt’s visit in 1903 and likely pins for the 1904 election but I know of only 2 Roosevelt varieties and one pin for a local candidate made by this company. Lowman and Hanford printing opened in 1894 and was in business until 1955. I have not seen a political pin with this company’s mark but have seen a colorful fraternal organization pinback from the first decade of the last century with their marking on the curl. They may be the source of some of the orphans discussed below. Dukinfield Printing opened in the early 1900’s but the only pins





marked with their logo date to the 1930's. I am aware of an FDR, a Landon (pictured) and a department store Santa pin. They didn't use backpapers and printed directly on the metal back usually with poor results. This is why, when described in auction catalogs, their name is often misspelled, sometimes to the point it is unrecognizable. I suspect they are a more likely source of some the unidentified pins of the northwest. The

only pins known to be produced by Bill's Buttons are the crudely made FDR pins made in the style of wartime employee badges with multiple different colored rims—the one pictured has FDR stamped across the artwork, but most do not. Tacoma was home to Pacific Stamp Works, which made beautiful sepia as well as black and white pins at the turn of the last century, but I have not seen a political campaign item bearing their backpaper. Spokane was home to two manufacturers: Spokane Stamp Works and Inland Printing. I have not seen any political pins from the former but the latter produced the Taft visit pin and a Wilson, which is easily confused with a common Whitehead & Hoag design, but for a subtle font difference.

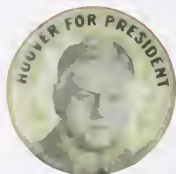


Colorado

Colorado is represented by one company with an extended history and portfolio and three smaller companies with limited political material. Colorado Badge and Novelty produced memorabilia from at least 1907 through 1940. The earliest political piece I could find is a metal broom for one of the Carey campaigns in Wyoming (unclear if it was produced for Robert or Joseph). Celluloid pins are known for Harding, Hoover, Smith, Willkie and FDR. Pueblo is known to have had three button makers. I am unaware of any presidential pins made by either Pueblo Lithographers or Franklin Printing, but H.S. Stovall made a very nice sepia Bryan pin for the 1908 election with the slogan around his portrait "Let the People Rule." I have seen a



pair of Bryan and McKinley portrait pins with very unusual slogans from the 1900 campaign with an H.S. Stovall backpaper from Weatherby, Missouri suggesting they relocated to Colorado early in the twentieth century. One of the finest presidential pins to come out of the west is the Bryan 1 1/2" with his picture above the map of the United States. It was produced by the Western Button Company of Denver and has ordering information on its backpaper; 15 cents each with a mailing address in Villa Park Colorado.



Utah and Montana

I will include Montana and Utah together since neither is well represented. Hawes Photography and Bessette Stork Printers of Butte are the only Manufacturers of celluloid pins in Montana. Hawes produced a couple of different celluloid pins supporting William Clark's candidacy for the U.S. Senate in 1900 and a McKinley sepia which was likely a mourning item (I successfully bid on this item on eBay but sadly it never arrived). Bessette Stork made a button celebrating Labor Day in 1911, featuring John McNamara who had recently been convicted of the LA Times bombing. The only other pinbacks I know that were manufactured in Montana were commissioned by Marcus Daly for the 1894 election to determine the state capital. They were made by Leys Jewelry in Butte in support of Anaconda. I have six different varieties and they exist



in both brass and enameled varieties. Utah is known for two companies. The first of which, US Spec and MFG in Salt Lake, produced at least one presidential pin a sepia picture pin for Wilson, likely from either his 1916 election or 1919 tour in support of the League of Nations. More widely known in the hobby is the Salt Lake Stamp Co., which produced celluloids in the 30's and 40's. I know of pins produced for Willkie, Harvey of the Liberty Party and of course the FDR/Blood jugate.

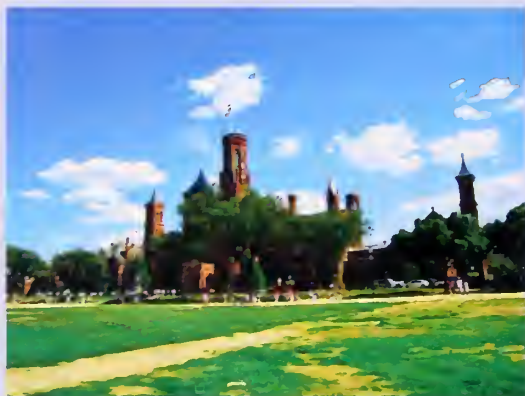


Orphans

There are a number of pinbacks that northwest collectors presume were manufactured in either Washington or Oregon. Some of these carry Portland or Seattle union bugs but no manufacturer. One of these, the 1912 Washington Progressive Convention pin, is very similar in color scheme and the unusual pinback used for the Taft Alaska Yukon Expo pin, so I have always assumed they were made in the same shop. Many are completely unmarked such as the Truman and Barkley pair and the "God Bless America" FDR and Willkie pins. Strangely, Oregon collectors often attribute them to Washington and Washington collectors to Oregon—truly orphans. I had always thought they were unlabeled Irwin-Hodson products. Others I have no idea as to their origin such as the Spokane Taft which is a filled back with no celluloid cover, the King County Hughes and the Wilson "Welcome to Our City" which is likely from his 1919 visit to Seattle. If anyone has any information about the origins on these items, please let me know. Certainly my backpaper obsession is atypical in our hobby, but I would rather have the same pin with an obscure paper than one produced by Whitehead and Hoag, Bastian Brothers or St. Louis Button Co. In an age where old repins with backpapers have been appearing with increasing regularity, getting to know what's on the back can be as important as the graphics on the front. I would like to thank Tom Berg for his assistance with Colorado makers, Tom French with the Bay Area companies and Ted Hake for his insight and keen eye. If I have left out any of your favorites, I would be happy to hear about them.



Additional buttons from the West



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APIC Internship Report

By Scott Jasnoch



First of all, I'd like to thank APIC for selecting me for the 2013 Mark Jacobs APIC Internship at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. It was an honor representing APIC and an experience I will never forget.

My interest in history and politics started at a young age, while growing up in Kearney, Nebraska. My parents have always enjoyed history and politics, so it was natural that I had similar interests too. Many of our family vacations involved visiting historical sites and presidential museums around the United States. I traveled to Washington D.C. for the first time at the

young age of five and became hooked on history. When I was in first grade, Abraham Lincoln became my favorite president and I began collecting anything I could find about President Lincoln.

I attend the University of Nebraska—Kearney, where I will be in my junior year this fall. I am majoring in Political Science, with a minor in History. I am an active member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and involved with a campus political organization.

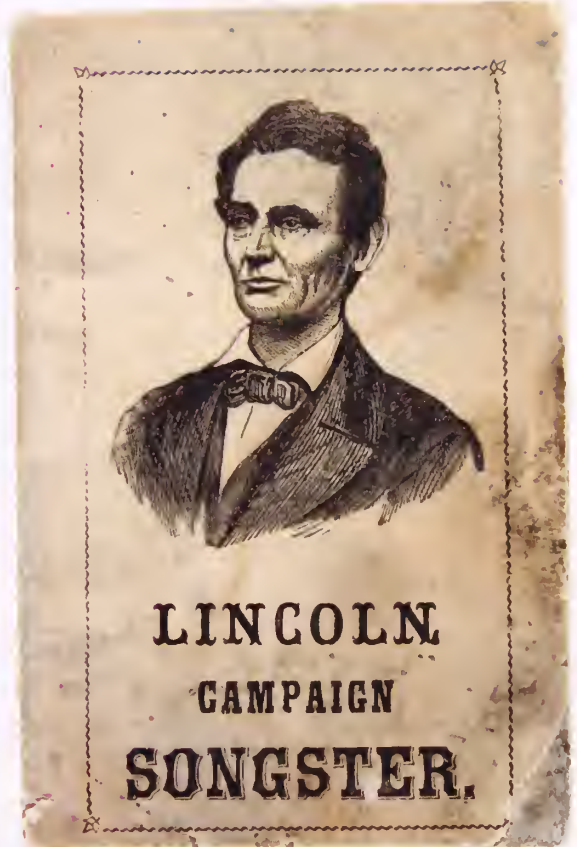
I became interested in collecting presidential memorabilia about five years ago and became involved with APIC. Becoming a student member of APIC allowed me to become acquainted with other collectors around the country. I have an extensive collection of campaign posters, bumper stickers, political buttons, and other items at home. My father and I enjoy "picking" while on vacations searching for the latest treasure.

I have always enjoyed the archiving of my personal memorabilia and never dreamed I'd have a chance to work at the Smithsonian Institution. As I applied for the 2013 Internship last fall, I was realistic, knowing other people would apply too and I would need to have a back-up plan for summer employment.

Last January, as I was preparing to walk across campus on a cold morning, I checked my e-mail before I left my room. I was shocked to find an e-mail from Norman Lowenstern informing me that I'd been selected for the internship. You can't imagine how this young college student from Nebraska felt about this opportunity to live and work in Washington D.C. for six weeks.

As I finished my semester of college and completed the application process for the internship at the Smithsonian, I was eagerly anticipating the trip. I'd traveled to Washington D.C. numerous times, so felt like I knew the city. I was familiar with the Metrorail Subway system, so felt comfortable with traveling around the city. When I was assigned a dormitory room at Mitchell Hall at The George Washington University, I discovered I'd be living three blocks from the White House.

The seventh day of June finally arrived, so my father and I flew from Omaha to Washington D.C., where we checked into a hotel for the weekend. We spent the weekend scoping out all the hot spots in the neighborhood near my dormitory. We also spent a lot of time sightseeing in the city and soaked up a lot of history that weekend. My dad flew back to Nebraska and it was time for me to get to work.



The first day of work on June 10th I headed over to the National Museum of American History for intern orientation with Mr. Omar Eaton-Martinez. Our group of interns learned the “ins and outs” of working at the Smithsonian Institution and then watched a movie about what it meant to work at the facility. As I sat there watching that movie, I couldn’t believe I was actually going to be working in a building I’d only dreamed about visiting!

It was finally time to head up to the fourth floor of the museum and meet my supervisor, Dr. William L. Bird, Jr., Curator of the Political History Division at the National Museum of American History. Prior to leaving Nebraska, I’d read up on Dr. Bird and his projects, so I knew a little about him before I arrived at his office. As I stepped off the elevator, I recognized Dr. Bird walking down the hall. Dr. Bird welcomed me to the Smithsonian, took me on a tour of the fourth floor, and introduced me to people working in the department. You can’t imagine the thrill of walking into the collection room for the first time with Dr. Bird. I couldn’t believe I was in that collection room, looking at cabinets filled with the history of our country. To see a piece of the Berlin Wall, silver service used by George and Martha Washington, a piece of wood chopped by Abraham Lincoln, and a bag filled with “hanging chads” was surreal to me.

Dr. Bird has worked at the Smithsonian for over thirty years and told me about the exhibits he’d been involved with and shared numerous books he’d written about the exhibits. He was preparing for the “Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, and Curios from the Past” exhibit opening on August 9, 2013. I learned about many of the 50 items used in this exhibit, such as a piece of Plymouth Rock and a chip of wood from the transcontinental railroad. One day, Dr. Bird asked me to go with him to a storage area on the second floor to pick up “Souvenir Nation” books for his upcoming exhibit. As we entered the storage area to get the books, I noticed it was filled with furniture and items from the First Ladies exhibit. Dr. Bird pointed out furniture belonging to George Washington and the chairs used by Richard Nixon and John Kennedy for the first presidential debate during the 1960 general election. Needless to say, this was an exciting moment for me.

With a keen interest in political buttons, I was pretty excited to get my first assignment with the button collection. My assignment was to view pictures of political buttons and check to see if these particular buttons were in the collections within the political history division. It was amazing to see political items from campaigns that date back from the time of George Washington to the present time. To see inauguration buttons from George Washington was exciting. As I was working with the buttons, I kept thinking back to the significance of my collection back home.

I also went through the collection of political bumper stickers from the early 1950’s to the present time. I selected fifty to seventy bumper stickers I thought were interesting, made copies, and created a collage, which is hanging in the office of Dr. Bird. It was interesting to see how the campaign buttons and bumper stickers had changed over the years.



Dr. Bird and his team are in the planning stages for their next exhibit, which is scheduled to open in 2016. This exhibit will explore the importance of democracy in our country. I had the opportunity to research different aspects of democracy as the team prepared for the project. Prior to doing research, I had to apply online for a library card at the Library of Congress. Walking into The James Madison Building at the Library of Congress to pick up my new library card was pretty amazing.

Some of my responsibilities at the Library of Congress involved researching historical figures such as Thomas Nast and Montgomery Meigs, in addition to researching campaign literature. I discovered Thomas Nast was the cartoonist who was responsible for creating the Republican Party elephant and popularizing the Democratic donkey. Many of his cartoons were published in *Harper's Weekly* magazine. I had the opportunity to take these magazines from the collections area to scan the covers of those original magazines for a possible project.



I learned that Montgomery Meigs, a Quartermaster General for the U.S. Army during the Civil War, was a civil engineer and construction engineer. Meigs was credited with developing Arlington Cemetery, designed and constructed the Pension Building, and left his mark on the U.S. Capitol building. I will never forget holding some of Meigs actual sketches of buildings in Washington D.C. that were stored in the Smithsonian collection. While wearing white gloves, I took those sketches from the collection drawers and scanned them for a project.

I also spent time at the Library of Congress researching key words such as bumper stickers, ribbons, sheet music, Green Duck Company, The Log Cabin Campaign, campaign torches, Bryan money, and The Unexcelled Fireworks Company. I had to enter those key words into the database at the Library of Congress, print out a hard copy of the information for Dr. Bird and send a PDF version to my e-mail. Once I'd return to the Smithsonian, I'd use a computer in one of the offices to open up the PDF version in my e-mail and download the information onto the political history database. Dr. Bird will use this research as he contemplates future projects.

Another highlight of my experience was accompanying Dr. Bird to meetings with an international design team that will be creating the upcoming exhibit about democracy. To sit in a meeting room on the fifth floor at the National Museum of American History for two days and hear the vision of the team from the political history division was surreal. I was fortunate to have been able to

view how the process begins as curators showcase historical items from the past. Having my own personal copy of the script shared with the design team is something I'll keep in my personal archives! I look forward to viewing the exhibit about democracy at the Smithsonian when it opens in 2016.

While working at the National Museum of American History, I met many interesting people. I especially enjoyed meeting other interns on the fourth floor and sharing our experiences. We often ate lunch together, attended a Washington Nationals baseball game as a group, took a U.S. Capitol tour, and went to an ice cream social for the staff at the museum. I enjoyed learning more about people from other parts of the United States and their perspectives on life.

In early July, my mother came to visit for a week. Standing outside the National Museum of American History building, wearing my official nametag and feeling a sense of accomplishment, gave me great pride as I awaited the arrival of my mother. Dr. Bird told me to bring her to our office on the fourth floor, so he could take her on a tour of the Political History Division and show her the collections room.

Celebrating Independence Day 2013 in Washington D.C. was unbelievable. I became a personal tour guide for my mother. To see the National Independence Day Parade on Constitution Avenue gave added meaning to being an American. We spent time listening to Barry Manilow sing on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol on July 4th and then walked the length of the National Mall to watch the fireworks at the base of the Washington Monument. The fireworks were spectacular that evening!

Standing in Dr. Bird's office each day, looking out the window at the Washington Monument, and working with the history of the United States was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The last week of my internship was difficult, knowing I would be leaving something that meant so much to me. On July 19th, that last day of work, Dr. Bird took me to Georgetown for lunch. He graciously gave me copies of books he'd previously written, in addition to an autographed copy of his newly released book, "Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, and Curios from the Past." It was really difficult to say farewell to Dr. Bird.

As I look back at this six week experience in Washington D.C., I learned a lot about who I am. I learned about leaving the comforts of home and a community of 30,000, to live in a metropolitan city. I learned I want to pursue a career in the area of political and historical preservation and that I learned I want to return to Washington D.C. in the future. APIC, Norman Lowenstein, and the Mark Jacobs family believed in me and provided me a wonderful experience. I will never forget your generosity and am forever grateful for the opportunity.

I discovered dreams do come true, as I worked in the political history division at the National Museum of American History, and for that, I thank all of you!

John Vargo responds to criticism to his article

Until the Spring issue of *The Keynoter* was published, I had not seen the specifics of the attack that had been made on the article I had done in the prior issue on the presidential politics and campaign materials of 1963. Accordingly, *The Keynoter* editors graciously offered me the opportunity to submit a complete response. I am declining to do so, however, because I believe that to the extent possible, the pages of our magazine should be devoted to the items we collect and their history -- as my article had been -- and not to issues of political history apart from the relevant memorabilia.

Several members have already pointed out some of the serious flaws in the attack made on my article. To what they have said I will add only that I fully stand behind each of the points made in the article, because having thoroughly researched the politics of that era, I am confident that they are all entirely supported by the facts. In that regard, a few other relevant campaign items that were issued in 1964 are pictured here.

There is one other point that I believe needs to be made, and it is as follows. Certainly every member has the right to criticize anything that appears in the magazine. However, I would hope that in the future, any such criticisms will be made in a civil manner, without resorting to name-calling, or impugning the motivations, the integrity or the competence of either an article's author or the editors of *The Keynoter*.



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Civil Rights leaders confer with President Johnson. Shown above are Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, James Farmer of CORE, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. of SCLC, Whitney Young of the National Urban League and the President.

Photo Reprinted From
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Reprinted From
August Issue of Church and Race



MEMENTO OF RIGHTS STRUGGLE

Washington, D. C. -- President Johnson, having signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, turns to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to give him one of the pens he used to affix his signature. Dr. King, Baptist minister and integration leader, said: "This will remain among my most cherished possessions." The Act, said President Johnson, states that "those who are equal before God shall now also be equal in the polling booths, in the classrooms, in the factories, and in hotels and restaurants, and movie theaters and other places that provide service to the public."

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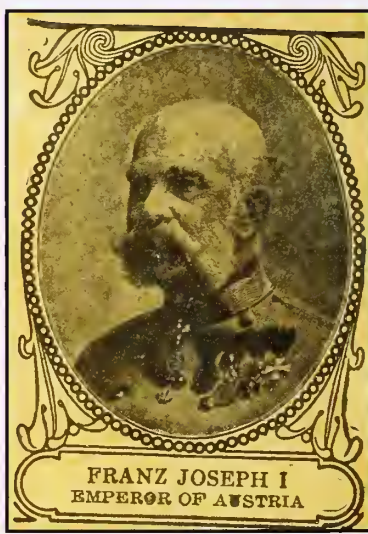
The fantasy is destroyed, and the truth is revealed

By Robert M. Clifford



A few years ago, I acquired this 1-1/4 inch tall Woodrow Wilson pin. When one similar to it appeared on eBay recently, a friend who thought it was this pin, commented to me that it was not a legitimate campaign item manufactured by a button company, but a home-made fantasy piece.

Recently, while I was examining another item in the same display frame, this pin literally fell apart. The metal back that has the pin on it and holds the picture in just slipped out of the tabs that held it in the brass rim. Two pieces of paper came out. The Wilson picture had been crudely trimmed to size by someone who was not very handy with a pair of scissors. It looks like there was some truth to my friend's criticism. It is possible, though, that the assembly could have been done in 1912 or 1916. What really intrigued me was the second piece of paper, the backing piece. It appears to be the picture that was originally mounted in the brass frame. The picture has some sort of gilt (which had rubbed off the back of the Wilson picture) sticking to it and it is faded, so I scanned it and adjusted the brightness and contrast a little. Neither of the men pictured in the



jugate looks like any candidate that I know of for president of the United States.

On a hunch, I consulted a book I own that was published in



1915. It has photographs of the heads of state at that time in the major countries of the world. Sure enough, I found pictures of both men: Kaiser Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany 1888 to 1918, and Franz Joseph I, Emperor of Austria from 1848 to 1916.

The original pin may have been produced after the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria

on 28 June 1914. Kaiser Wilhelm offered to support Austria-Hungary in crushing the Black Hand, the secret organization that had plotted the killing, and even sanctioned the use of force by Austria against the perceived source of the movement—Serbia (this is often called "the blank cheque").

With the United States allied against the German coalition in World War I, either the manufacturer of the pin, or the owner, probably thought it more appropriate to support Woodrow Wilson's re-election in than to pay homage to the Kaiser and the emperor of Austria-Hungary, and modified the pin accordingly.

Or, more recently, someone could have taken a pin that he thought would not sell for much, and turned it into a Wilson pin. In either case, it makes sense to restore the pin to its probable original configuration.



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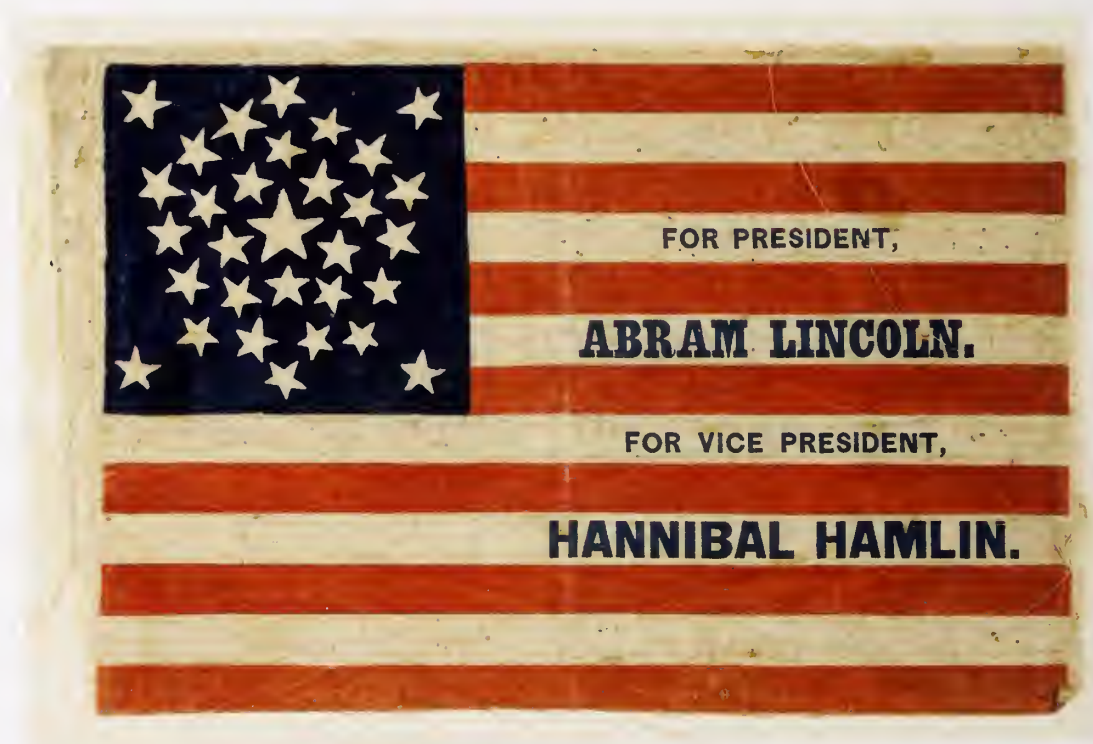
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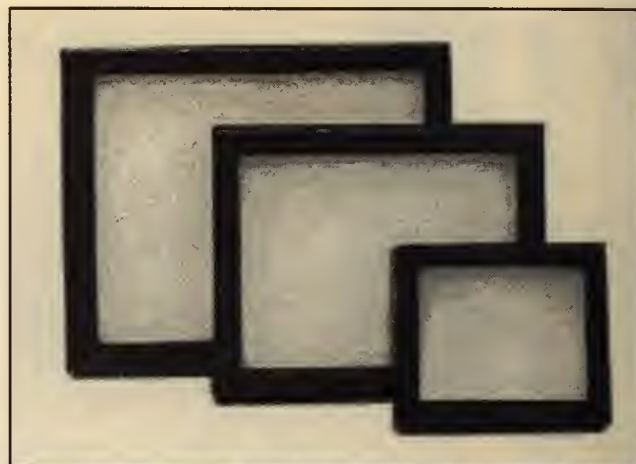
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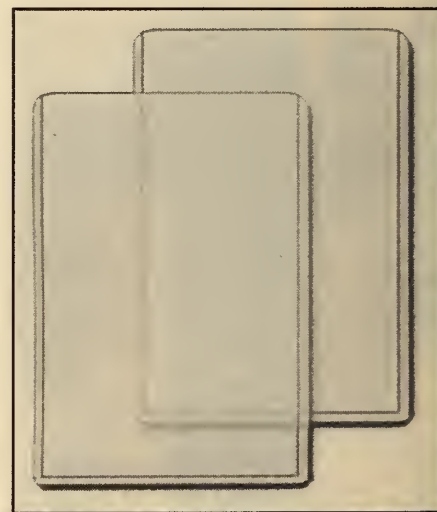
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